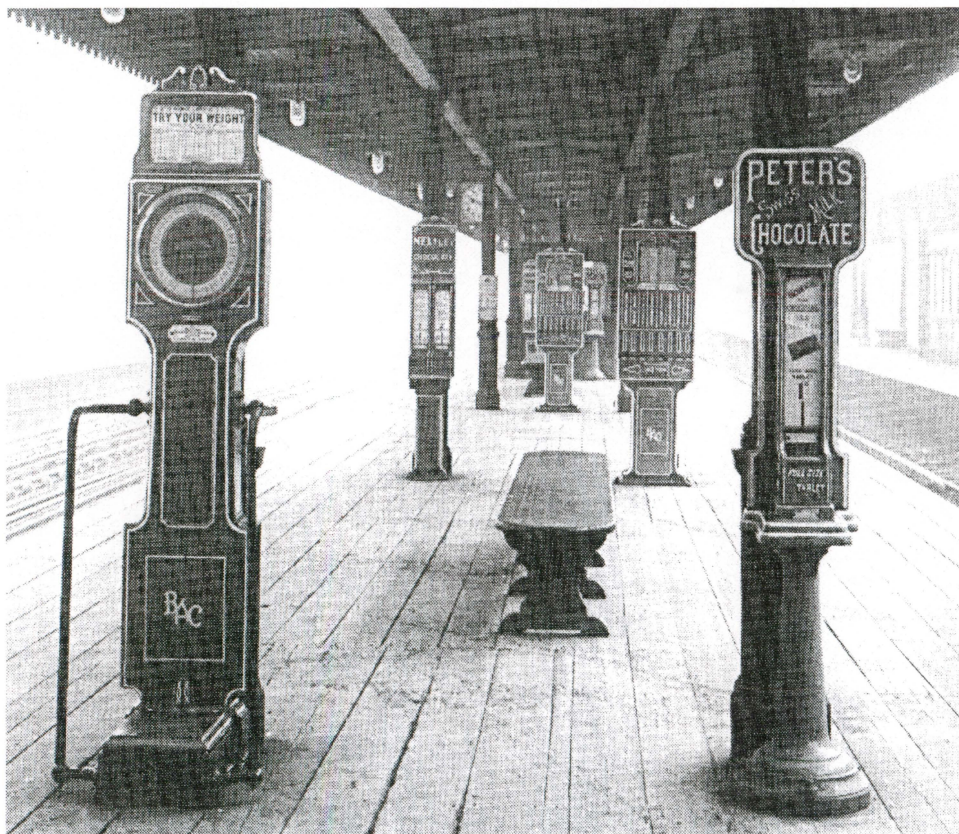


Mechanical Memories Magazine

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Mechanical Memories Magazine

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Editorial

Hello, and welcome to the very last issue of the year. Yes, it really is December, and just weeks away from 2008 – another year gone in no time at all.

I'm pleased to report that we're ending the year on a positive note – I've sussed the BAC mystery! There are still a few questions to be answered, but at least we now have a fairly clear idea of what the British Automatic Co. Ltd were all about. Many thanks to Bob Klepner, Kevin Gowland, Cliff Prince and Dave Geeson for their help. Anyway, a full account from page 7. Unfortunately, BAC has taken up a fair amount of space in the mag. over the last couple of months, which means part 2 of 'Moving Picture Machines' has had to be postponed. Hopefully, it will be included early in the New Year.

Now, The Central England Vintage Coin-op Show and Auction – how was it for you? I have to say that I was very much looking forward to this event, but came away a little disappointed to say the least. Coventry last year gave us a good start, and I think we were certainly looking at an upward trend with Sarratt, but I'm afraid Coventry this year seemed bloody hard work. Everyone seemed to enjoy the day, but many were reluctant to spend money.....until they got out to the carpark after the auction. Anyway, more on the following page.

Kevin Gowland has written a very interesting report on the Chicagoland show (see page 14), which reminds me that it must be several months since my last plea for articles and contributions – so I thought it might be worth having another go! If every subscriber were to submit just one contribution, it would make my task of publishing this magazine so much easier. So go on, make it your New Year's resolution.....Please!

And finally, it was great to see so many of you at the Bonhams auction in Knightsbridge last month. Well actually, it was only Charlie Booth and I that turned up. Nonetheless, it was a good day out and should have given me an opportunity to do some Christmas shopping at Harrods for my wife's present. Unfortunately, as soon as the auction was over, Charlie dragged me into the nearest pub.....so Sharron's present will have to come from Woolworth's this year.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas, and a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Jerry

Coventry '07

Well, I think everyone had a good time, and many have remarked how much they're looking forward to the next event. Jeremy was in charge of the venue this time, and I think it was almost as good as we'll ever get, although it did seem to shrink once we started filling it with machines. With over 270 lots entered in the auction, this was our biggest so far, and we had a good selection too. Machines on offer ranged from mundane to desirable, and there should have been something for everyone.

We had a really good selection of Bryans machines this time, including a few of the rarer models which not surprisingly did well, including a Double Decker which sold for £1600 and a Worlborl making £1500. Spares did well too, with some of the bandit parts selling for quite extraordinary prices. And I think we broke the record again with old pennies, 1000 selling for an incredible £52. There were a number of 'star' lots, which seemed to attract little interest though, and I was particularly disappointed that the Mills Hi-Top Cowboy didn't sell.

On the whole, sales were disappointing. We struggled to sell allwins for much more than £300, and it was surprising to see some nice BMCo allwins selling for far less than most of us would have expected. Bandits attracted a similar lack of enthusiasm too, although the Little Duke did well selling at £1050. Some of the reserves may have been a little unrealistic, but I think the overall problem was a reluctance to buy. As a result, the auction moved at a very slow rate which was no doubt irritating for us all, least of all me. I'm sure the icing on the cake was that tosser pulling the plug on the laptop just as we were about to pay out, which really slowed things down.....Sorry!

There are no doubt various economic reasons for the apparent reluctance to spend money, but I think there are two fundamental problems: First, those of us who have been collecting for some time now have all the allwins and bandits we want. Second, and perhaps more importantly, there are not enough newcomers joining us. Anyway, I shall discuss this further next month.

Now the really bad news! A number of machines which did not reach their reserves were later sold privately after the auction, and I wonder which part of 'there is to be no buying and selling in the carpark' was not fully understood. If vendors were prepared to sell at a lower price, then they should have entered their machine at a lower reserve. I've tried desperately to get the message across that Jeremy and I are running these events for the good of us all, and trying to keep premiums as low as possible. When we hear of machines selling privately, thus avoiding paying a meagre 5% commission, it rather feels like a kick in the teeth. However, I should like to say thankyou to the vendor who sold his machine after the auction, and was honest enough to pay the commission, although it does seem unfair that only he should pay. I just wonder whether the new owner of a nice Sega Hi-Top feels really chuffed that he saved himself twenty quid.

Here are of some of the prices realised at the auction. A full list will be posted in the **Arena** on the pennymachines website. www.pennymachines.co.uk

Lot	Description	Price
22	Testo reaction meter.	40
31	Skyline, German wall machine from 1966.	110
32	'The Dynamic' French 5 ball allwin type wall machine.	400
39	Bag of 500 old sixpences.	26
42	Win a Smarties allwin.	300
44	Jennings Governor, on 6d play.	600
47	BMCo allwin, on old penny play.	340
53	Master Football game, on 1d play.	200
58	6 Mills denominator badges.	14
69	4 Original award cards.	22
72	Bryans Pilwin, on 1d play.	440
76	Arcadia 87, illustrated auction catalogue.	10
81	Push-em-off coin pusher.	200
83	Bradley Challenger.	120
86	Bryans Double Decker.	1600
90	Early Tivoli wall machine, on half penny play.	450
95	Mills/Sega 6d 5 coin escalator.	50
109	Bryans Elevenes, on old penny play.	420
117	Mini pusher, with reconditioned motor.	260
120	R&W Ice hockey table, on 10p play.	260
124	Jennings Little Duke.	1050
133	Allwin De-luxe, with working 3 ball reserve.	420
135	BMCo 8 cup allwin, restored.	360
138	BMCo 24 cup allwin, on 1d play.	520
139	R&W What's My Line allwin, on 1d play.	520
141	Bryans Clock, on 1d play.	440
145	Sega slot machine parts.	170
171	Jennings side vender.	250
179	1931 Jennings Rockaway 5 jackpot.	700
195	Spitfire allwin front for spares or restoration.	260
220	Bryans Fruit Bowl on 1d play.	600
221	Bryans Worlborl, in streamline case, on 1p play.	1500
235	Very rare Bryans Penny-go-Round.	950
241	'Automatic Pleasures' by Nic Costa.	36
252	2 Mills/Sega cash boxes.	34
274	Jennings escalator.	45



*GWR ticket machine supplied by BAC, now at the Swindon Railway Museum.
Picture courtesy Richard Goddard.*

British Automatic Co. Ltd

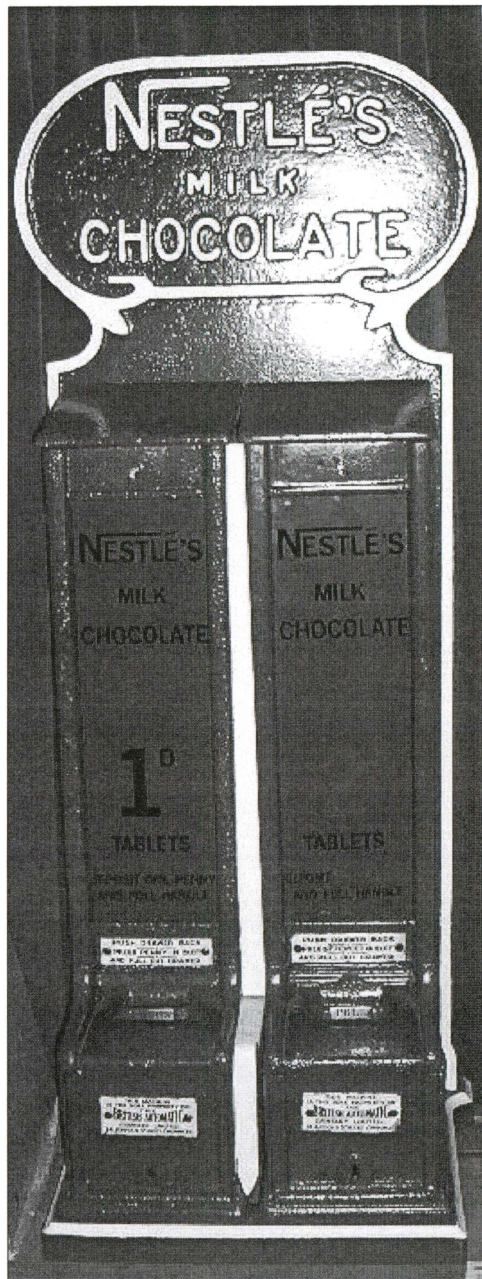
Last month, I suggested that BAC may have been a fairly large concern, and that it seemed odd that a company that appears to have traded for half a century or more should just disappear into obscurity. Here's what I've learnt so far:

A month ago, most of us knew no more about BAC than what we've discovered so far with regard to the BAC/Simplex metal label stampers. However, within a couple of days of the magazines landing on everyone's doormats, I received information from Cliff Prince and Kevin Gowland, and I realised why BAC had appeared so obscure; their core business was vending, rather than amusement machines. So, having been steered in the right direction, I was able to research further, and can now reveal that the British Automatic Company Ltd. was absolutely huge! In fact, they may well have been the largest British coin-op. company of all time.

It appears they were primarily an operating business, and the machines they operated included: chocolate venders; cigarette & match venders; weighing machines and, of course, metal label stampers. Their prime sites were railway stations, and this gives us an idea of just how big BAC could have been. Between the wars, Britain's railways were operated by 'the big four', and the concession with just one of these railway companies would have been massive. Although I have been unable to gain any confirmation at this stage, it appears that BAC did indeed have the concession with the Great Western Railway, and the fact that they had an office in Bristol might support this. Perhaps their biggest operation though, was in London. Bob Klepner has once again been most helpful in my quest for information, and has confirmed that BAC operated machines on the entire London Underground. Every vending machine and weighing machine, in every station was a BAC; this concession alone would have been a massive operation.

So how far did the BAC operating empire spread? Well, we can gain a clue by referring back to the front cover of the operating manual for their later, post war label stamper, which I published last month. In addition to their main office and works address in London and a branch in Bristol, they also had offices in Manchester and Glasgow, which would suggest a nationwide operation; it would certainly place BAC in an ideal situation to serve the LMS railway (the largest of the big four). They also had branches in Belfast and Dublin - so they had Northern and Southern Ireland covered. And then there's their office in Brussels, which seems to indicate BAC were vending Nestles' chocolate and Woodbine fags on the continent too!

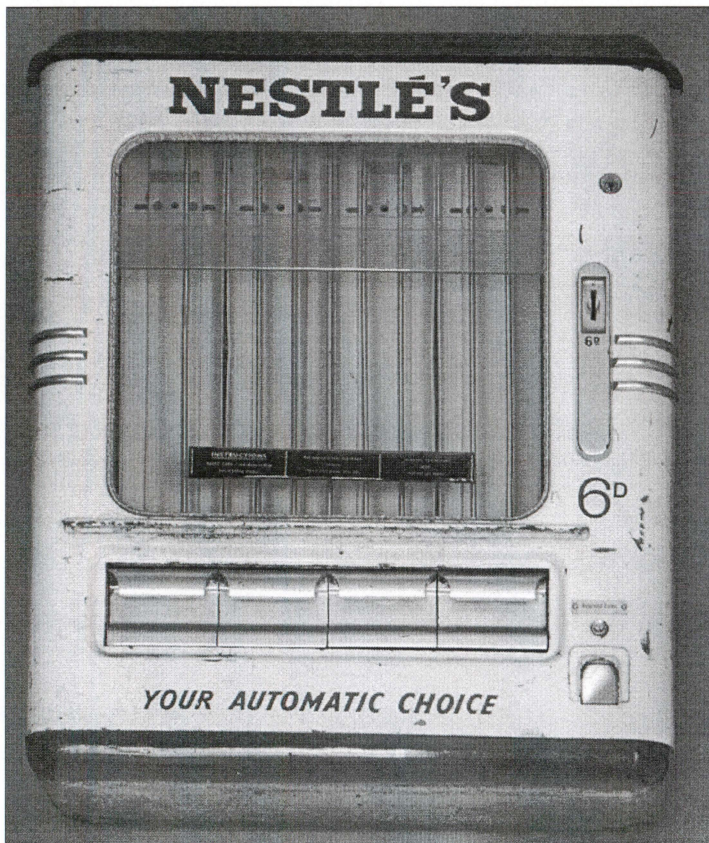
Front cover picture: *A fine collection of cast iron machines on a railway station in the 1930s. Although only three machines can be positively identified, it is likely that they were all owned and operated by the British Automatic Company Ltd. I wonder whether this may have been a publicity shot – the platform does look rather overcrowded!*



An extremely rare two column Nestles machine. Picture courtesy Kevin Gowland.

BAC clearly traded from the early years of the twentieth century, if not earlier, but what became of them? They would certainly have taken a serious knock during WWII, not least because their chocolate venders would have been redundant due to sweet rationing, which continued until 1953. But they certainly did survive the war, and continued to trade for a considerable number of years. Bob Klepner worked in London for a while back in the '50s, and recalls BAC were still operating machines on the Underground at that time, so it seems they survived well into the post WWII period. I personally recall four column Nestles machines on BR Southern region stations in the 60s, which I have reason to believe were also BAC machines.

I also remember weighing machines that were sited in Woolworth's in the '60s, which dispensed a picture card, about the same size as a cigarette card. Cliff Prince emailed me details of one of these cards that sold on ebay recently, which was issued by BAC in 1953. So could the weighing machines I remember in the '60s have been operated by BAC?



Nestles four column chocolate vender from the 1960s, believed to be a BAC machine.

Whether or not BAC were still operating in the 1960s is a matter of pure conjecture at the moment. However, I suspect that if they were still trading by the late '60s, they would have met with a serious impediment to their operation. In 1969 inflation was running at 5.44% and rising; within five years it was 16%, and a year later over 24%. Amusement machine operators were greatly assisted by decimalization in 1971, which enabled them to more than double the price of play literally overnight. However, vending operators would have found it impossible to vend a product whose price increased almost monthly.

So, although we've learnt a great deal in the last month, there are still questions to be answered: When did BAC start trading? How far did their operation spread? And when did they cease trading, and why? There is perhaps one more question: If BAC was such a large operator, why have so few of their machines survived; particularly the early, beautifully ornate cast iron machines? I suspect the answer is WWII. As I've stated earlier, chocolate vending machines would have been rendered redundant for over a decade due to sweet rationing, and it is more than likely they were scrapped to help the war effort. During the war, thousands of tons of scrap iron and steel were piled up at Woolwich Arsenal, Southeast London, waiting to be recycled. I bet if you'd been around at the time, you could have had a rummage and found yourself a really nice Nestles machine!

Simplex Patent

Now, do you remember the problem we had last month with the patent for the Simplex stamper, that I suggested appeared to describe a completely different machine? Well, Bob Klepner has once again come up trumps and provided what appears to be the correct patent – no. 735709. However, this is where it gets complicated!

The patent that Greg turned up last month (no. 750432) was filed in October 1901 and finally approved in January 1904 – a period of twenty-seven months; whereas patent no. 735709 was filed in May 1902 and approved in August 1903 – a period of just fifteen months. This is only a guess, but could there have been a problem with the original patent application? I suggested last month that perhaps it infringed Roovers' design, and in my view, it looks likely that this was indeed the case. There must surely have been a reason for two completely different designs, although we may never know. But we do know that the original patent application was eventually approved, which begs the question: were machines ever produced to this design? Again, we may never know, but if you ever encounter a metal label stamper which operates in the same way as a Roovers' machine but is labelled a Simplex.....please, please let me know!

Opposite page: *The first page of patent no. 735709, which appears to be the design to which the Simplex/BAC stampers were built.*

No. 735,709.

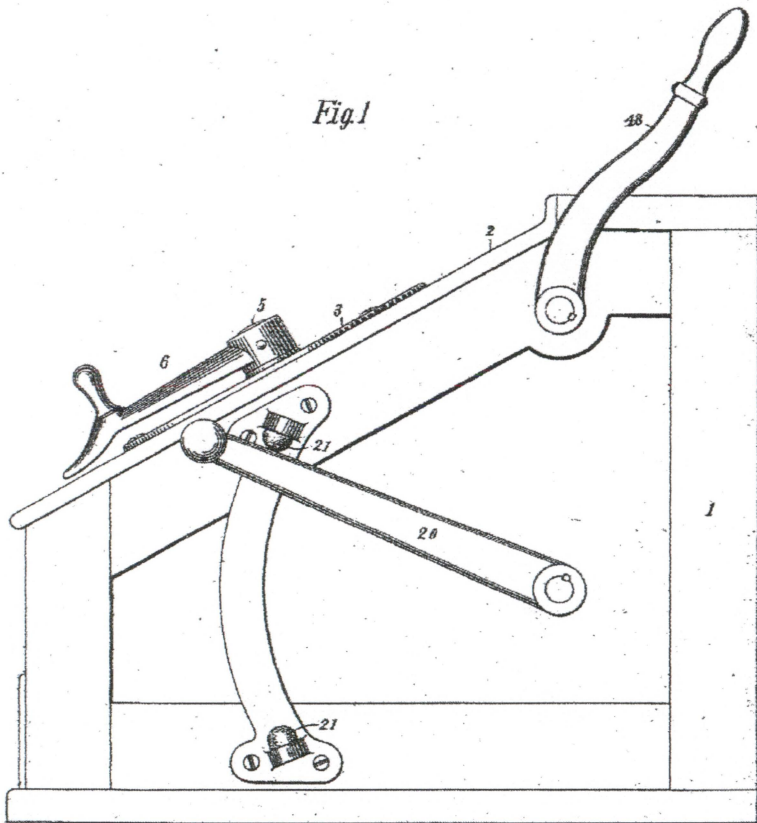
PATENTED AUG. 11, 1903.

H. CASLER.
EMBOSSING OR PUNCHING MACHINE.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 10, 1903.

NO MODEL.

5 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



Witnesses:

Raphael Vetter
A. Dunham.

Inventor

Herman Casler

by Kerr, Page & Cooper, Attys

The Bollands Survey

Well, I think we've come a long way since we started this survey at the beginning of the year, although I am a little disappointed that we haven't quite hit the hundred mark. However, my original list of twenty-nine has now grown to ninety-five, and there have been a few surprises along the way. Perhaps the biggest surprise has been the number of machines residing in America, with three more surfacing in the summer: *Burglar*; *Miser* and *Egypt*. This brings the number in the States to twenty-four – over a quarter of the total number of models known to exist so far.

The most recent addition to the list was the *Drunkards Dream* that sold at Bonhams last month, which I can report has stayed in this country. It is a very nice example, which has been well restored and cared for. It came from a house in the Midlands, and the owner was apparently not a collector – he just liked the machine, but for some reason decided to sell it. Selling at £4000, even taking into account the 20% premium and VAT, it still seemed cheap! I know there will be a few of you kicking yourselves for not putting in a bid – and it could be a long time before another comes along.

Now, I have previously asked for information on case types, which hasn't been entirely forthcoming! I am particularly interested to hear of any of the original nine models built in the later years, in clown cases. So far, apart from the one-offs, I have only identified four but I am sure there are more, so please keep the info. coming in. I should also like to start compiling a catalogue of pictures of as many of the surviving models as possible, so if I do not already have pictures of your machine(s), a few would be much appreciated. And don't forget, if you have any information on any machine, please let me know. I am certain that there are many more Bollands models out there, so if you own or know about a machine, please do not assume I know about it – because I may not!

And just to finish off, I thought it might be a nice idea to compile a list of all the Bollands working models on public display. Here are those that I know of, but once again, if you know of others, please get in touch.

Botany Bay, Lancs: *Miser*

Brewers Quay, Weymouth: *Burglar*

Brighton Sealife Centre: *Haunted Churchyard*; *Nightwatchman*

Brighton Toy Museum: *Drunkard's Dream*

Cheshire Candle Workshops: *Burglar*; *Haunted Churchyard*; *Haunted House*

Rye Heritage Centre: *Burglar*; *Davy Jones Locker*; *Drunkard's Dream*

Haunted Churchyard; *Miser*; *Nightwatchman*; *Pharos fortune teller*

Swindon Railway Museum: *Haunted House*

The Complete List So Far

The original nine

Burglar	11	(1 clown case)
Drunkard's Dream	12	(2 clown cases)
Egypt	7	
Haunted Churchyard	12	
Haunted House	9	(1 clown case)
Hells Kitchen	3	
Miser	10	
Night Watchman	13	
Witches Cave	3	

The one-offs

Bloody Tower	(wide clown case)
Davy Jones Locker	
Ding Dong Dell	(clown case)
Frankenstein	(wide clown case)
Frankenstein's Laboratory	
Haunted House	(clown case)
Haunted House	(wide clown case)

Pharos fortune tellers

6 in standard width cases
1 wide case version

Chicagoland 2007

By Kevin Gowland

I've just returned from the Chicagoland slot machine show, or the Antique advertising, slot machine and jukebox show as it is more correctly known. Many will have heard of it, but I guess a fair number of readers will not have made a trip to the show. So, I thought it might be interesting to say a little about an American show and how the collecting scene seemed over there.

By way of background, the show originated as a small collectors swap meet in the late 70's and progressed through a number of varied size venues to end up at the Pheasant Run Megacentre, which is a huge exhibition centre on the outskirts of St Charles, Illinois. At its peak in the late 90's, the show took up the main complex hall, a large annex, plus a large hall across the road. In addition to the dealer set-ups within these halls, these dealers and other dealers also had stock outside in the car parks. The show became the Mecca for many coin-op collectors as the source of untold finds and quality items. On the show days of Friday (dealer day), Saturday and Sunday in April and November each year, no serious American coin-op collector would let anything stand in the way of visiting THE show. At its peak, the show was strongly underpinned by the traffic in jukeboxes, as British and European dealers vied to buy golden and silver age jukeboxes in order to fill 20 and 40 foot containers for the then buoyant overseas market.

On my last trip to the show in November 2001, it was quite apparent that the show had declined a little from its peak. The large hall on the other side of the road was no longer used and the annex to the main Megacentre hall was not full. Also, it was noticeable that there were more retro dealers with repro porcelain (enamel to us) signs, dinner booths, tiffany lamps, and the like. All of good quality and interesting to see, and no doubt very interesting to American collectors looking to fit out their game room basements; but not quite as exciting as real old coin-op machines. A further slight undermining of the show had also occurred several years earlier when, I understand, due to some dispute, a rival show had been set up at the nearby Kane County show grounds on the Wednesday and Thursday preceding the Chicagoland show. This had taken away from the Chicagoland show one of the main dealers in quality golden age Wurlitzer jukeboxes. It also meant that some dealers booked up for both shows, and so by the time the Chicagoland show took place, some stock had already been sold.

So, on to the November 2007 Chicagoland show. Friday being 'dealer day', you pay \$50 for a ticket which gets you into the show on the Friday, but this also covers access for both Saturday and Sunday, where you gain entry an hour before the general public (who pay \$7 entry fee). However, as much active trading is done out of

the back of lorries and cars in the car park early on the Friday morning, many collectors don't bother with the \$50 indoor ticket (unless it rains, snows or is exceptionally cold). So, from as early as 4.30 a.m. you can see shadows scurrying to and fro in the car park looking for the odd dealer who has started unloading his truck. By about 5.10 a.m. there is a bit more activity and you don't feel so much that you were the only insane one out there prowling around in the dark. By 6.00 there's some light and there are crowds milling around.

So, you might ask how successful would the average English slot machine collector find himself by 6.00 in the morning. Well, truthfully, he would probably find himself empty-handed. He is unlikely to have found anything in the way of English machines and even if one were to turn up, the odds are that it would be passing you by under someone else's arm - such is the way of life. What he would find is that he had seen a lot of pretty cool American stuff, which, if he has an appreciative eye, he would find very interesting. However, he would also find it seeming rather expensive because generally an American is likely to understand and appreciate their indigenous antiques more than the average Englishman. And so, as wonderful as 1940's enamel and tin Coca-Cola, RC Cola and other dime store signs might be, as glorious as are some early American vending machines and arcade machines, they will mainly seem quite expensive unless you really understand what you are looking at. There is also the shipping issue to consider, which means the ticket price of an item which an American sees is not the end price, with shipping added on. This generally rules out lots of big stuff such as jukeboxes, Coca-Cola and arcade machines.



A bewildering collection of classic gaming machines, at a previous Chicagoland show

As Friday progresses, at 10.00 a.m. the halls are opened to allow dealers to set up in the main hall and the annex. With the \$50 preview ticket, you are able to enter too and this is where, maybe, just maybe, you find a treasure or bargain being unpacked. Slowly, trade in the car park tails off and focus moves into the halls. After looking around a little, and as empty stands turn into impressive displays, the whole character of this years show starts to become clear. Well, the first thing to say is that although the show has not returned to anything quite like its heyday, it is still a respectable and very interesting show and coin-op machines of varying types and condition are present in fair numbers. However, there were noticeable changes, in my view, since 2001.

Now, strictly our interest here is amusement machines, but the show is also heavily reliant upon jukeboxes, general antique advertising and retro Americana dinner/petrol pump/cash register type dealers, record dealers, plus dealers in casino chips, neon signs, traffic lights, jukebox repair, wind-up gramophones, chrome plating services, modern electronic slot machines (different styling to our AWP's) and pachinko games. So, I'll briefly say a little about some of these.

The range, quality and number of jukeboxes seemed well down on previous years. Perhaps six years on, this is not surprising; there was a huge interest in jukeboxes back in the late 90's and dealers scoured far and wide before the shows to amass stocks. So, maybe they just cannot now be turned up in the same quantities and quality. Also, with the advent of internet, no doubt many European dealers have pre-bought stocks and merely take delivery at the show. I think it is also maybe the case that interest in jukeboxes has cooled a little. Certainly the golden age machines no longer seem quite as in vogue. It was also notable that Victory Glass (large manufacturer of repro jukebox parts) didn't make an appearance this time, although there were other jukebox spare parts manufacturers who were set up. Sadly, gone it seems, are the days when a whole array of golden age Wurlitzer's and rare machines such as AMI double singing Towers, Seeburg Concert and Rock-ola Commandos made regular (ish) appearances. In fact, some of the jukeboxes which made their way inside the main hall at this show wouldn't have found their way past the parking lot a few years ago.

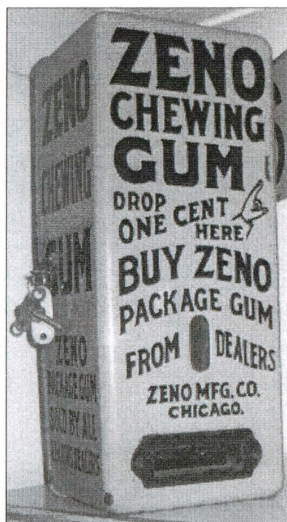
There seemed a fair range of classic Mills and other 'one armed bandit' slot machines, including several turn of the century floor standing 'Mills Owl' type machines. Unfortunately, these floor machines were generally around the £10,000 plus bracket and so out of my league. There are both original and repro 30's 40's style slots machines at the show, so you have to look closely at what is before you. Vending machines and Trade stimulators still seemed to be well represented and there are some stunning examples of these machines to be seen. The problem here is that they do not appear to have transcended cultures in the same way as jukeboxes have and it seems to me that Americans appreciate them far more than we do. So, much as Americans generally just cannot fathom our love of allwins (John Peterson being a notable exception here), American vendors and trade stimulators just don't have a great following over here. This is a real shame as there are some very interesting American vending machines such as the Mansfield, Masters and the yellow enamel Zeno which are absolute classics. It seemed to me that, in the case of the main stream trade stimulators such as penny packs, Imps etc, even though they had moved up a little in

value, because the \$ - £ exchange rate is currently weighed so much in our favour, in real terms they converted into the same sterling prices as they were in 2001.

Fairly few classic arcade type machines made appearance, but amongst what was there were some really interesting examples. There was a Rock-ola world series baseball game, a Buckley art deco crane (already sold when I saw it), a Genco Gypsy Grandma and a repro Chicago coin Bandbox (a jukebox item really). There was a very interesting repro Mills submarine lung tester; doubt you'll see an original! I don't recall seeing any Chester- Pollard games or Evans/ Williams Ten Strikes. I also saw a few 60's baseball type pinball games, a Williams 50's skill crane (which was nicely restored and working), and a fair number of pinball based games. Perhaps the biggest miss was Steve Gronowski, the co-promoter of the show up until it recently passed into other hands. He always had an excellent booth displaying original and quality repro arcade machines.

As regards antique advertising, which is another main stay of the show, this isn't something with which I am too familiar. However, it had a strong presence, was often quite beautiful and certainly well worth spending some time viewing. It ranged from, 1880's glass back-painted advertising, vintage Coca-Cola materials, Saloon backbars, soda pop to oddities such as paper weights, rulers and miscellaneous 'country store' items. I estimate that advertising, in one form or another, might represent one quarter of the show.

Another show mainstay is 'retro' stuff; there is a fair bit of it, and some of it is genuinely interesting. I guess that it is an easier job for dealers to set up presenting newly manufactured items than to continually source vintage material. So, repro enamel and tin signs, dinner booth materials and newly manufactured electronic pachinko machines (yuk) and repro mechanical Mills bandits together probably accounted for a around another quarter of the inside show.



So, having looked around and finding that there are some really stunning, quality items out there which are a bit intimidating price-wise, where does this leave you? Well, all is not quite lost. Although sellers are generally both serious collectors and knowledgeable about prices, the sheer amount of stuff which seems to have survived in America, and the number of machines which seem to have been manufactured, to be situated in every restaurant, soda fountain, drug store and arcade, does mean that there are a lot of low value basic entry machines and Americana which actually seems cheap. This is because it is unbelievably common by our standards and so most American collectors already have it, or have passed by this level of machine/memorabilia or availability keeps the price fairly reasonable. So, what could you buy that seems relatively cheap? Well, mainly it seems to be vending machines such as the Ford gumball, Silver King and select-o-vend's. All basic machines, at prices which are cheaper than over here; that is, before you take into account the cost of the trip! Also, some oddities such as kitsch 60's radios and battery toys, when they turn up seem far cheaper than generally is the case over here. Some trade stimulators seem reasonably priced (especially with the current £-\$ rate), but then again, it doesn't seem that they have a particularly strong following over here. Some jukebox wall boxes seemed cheap (I bought a nice AMI 120 select 50's wallbox with a bespoke AMI bar bracket for £75). A jukebox could be cheaper; except that finding what you actually want and shipping it back make this a risky bet. There is also such a range of stuff out there in all sorts of condition, that there is always the hope of finding a treasure; after all, one man's junk is another's treasure. I actually bought a front coin mech for a Masters Fantail for \$45 (if you know that machine, you would know that was a great buy!). In the past the odd English machine has shown up; and by this I mean literally one at this time (but on this occasion there were none to be seen). However, the perverse situation I have encountered is that they are scared to sell you a bargain and actually ask much more than the machine would sell for over here. One point to bear in mind too is that something can seem a bargain, but if you are on unfamiliar territory with foreign (i.e. American) merchandise you might later discover that some incorrect parts are fitted or else it has faults in some way which you didn't notice.

Now, all of this isn't intended to put off any collector from visiting the show. BUT, I think you have to attend on the same basis that you attend, say, a football match; you pay your money and value the entertainment you see. If you go out thinking that you will find many cheap gems, I think that you might be disappointed, although equally it could be your lucky day. It can also be a little daunting from the point of view of just how serious and knowledgeable American collectors can be. It's probably no surprise to hear that many Americans have a superior living standard (in some respects) and certainly a greater disposable income than we have historically enjoyed. Therefore, the whole concept of collecting seems to have become, for many, an established part of American life. There also appears to have been less destruction of older stuff. This is encouraged by the size of the country which has meant that barn, warehouse and 'basement' discoveries of rare collectables and old machines seems to have made for a continual source of great bygoners.

This in turn has led to an infrastructure of antique malls, flea markets and collectibles shows such as the Chicagoland slot show, on a scale that we have not seen over here. For some Americans, going 'antiquing' at weekends is as normal as eating out for breakfast.

Where does this leave the Chicagoland show for an English collector thinking about a trip? Well, it is definitely a great visual experience for any collector, but not necessarily the holiday of a lifetime which he may have led his dearly beloved to believe. So, an expensive trip if you don't find anything. Damaging too, if you have deceived your partner into the trip; the show is 30 miles west of Chicago and surrounded by pleasant, but pretty much just small functional towns. It's rather unfortunate that the overall cost brings down the viability of attendance at the show for many British collectors as it is a great event to indulge in. Unfortunately, as is logical and to be expected, the show is very much an American show and so probably unlikely to net a prize for a British collector. For many, maybe the answer is to look at how much the trip would cost, decide not to go, and then spend the money you have saved on buying a machine in Jerry's next auction. I personally find that buying machines seems much better value using this form of accounting.

Finally, for me, all I found was a mannequin figure for my Williams Ten Strike project, but I enjoyed the spectacle of the show, meeting up with old acquaintances and so I treated it as my ideal holiday. So, my best advice is, leave the wife and kids at home and go with a mate...oh, and go and see the House on the Rock up in Spring Green Wisconsin roadside America at its finest!



Some very desirable floor standing roulettes at this year's Chicagoland show

Lineage ads. are free to subscribers and will run for two issues, unless you instruct me otherwise. Please ensure I have your ads. by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the next month's issue. Remember to include your telephone number and the area where you live. Post or e-mail to the address on page 2

For Sale – Breaking Collection

Oliver Whales allwin Win a Rowntrees Fruit Gum, on old penny play.
BMCo allwin – Gallery/fluted cabinet.
Reserve Bonus ball wall machine, with fluted cabinet.
Bryans Castle Top Elevenses allwin, on old penny play.
Bryans 6 Win Clock, in crackle finish case with jackpot, on old penny play.
Bryans Bullion on 1p play.
Oliver Whales allwin Take Your Pick, on old penny play.
Ruffler & Walker What's My Line, on old penny play.
End of pier floor standing 3D viewer, with Skegness views. Ornate cast legs and deco top flash. 20s/30s, on halfpenny play.
Circle Skill 20s/30s wall machine, 1d play.
Kraft Extrawin allwin, with centre rotor, on old penny play.

All machines are with keys and in good working order. Some pictures available. Phone for more details.

Pete 01507 462070 (Lincs.)

For Sale

Vintage bar football table, thought to be 1950s or 60s. Solid mahogany, in nice condition. Price now reduced, as must sell, space needed. £300.00 ovno

Jerry 07710 285360

For Sale

Judge Dredd pinball machine, in excellent condition and good working order. £650
10 Sets of metal pinball legs. £30 per set.

George 01530 264772 (Leics.)

Wanted

Set of four cast feet of the type/style of a BANCo Pussy Shooter.

Pete 01507 462070 (Lincs.)

For Sale

Bollands Predicta fortune teller, in the iron clad case. Complete, original, in very nice condition. Just place a penny in and wait until the pointer stops to find out what is in store for you. Yes this is one of the three most desired and sort after. For a fair market price please phone.

Stuart 01768 341703 (Cumbria)
Mobile 07854 568748

Wanted

Tip-em-off or Seesaw wall machine.

Darren 01942 732308 (Wigan)

For Sale

Mills Wareagle, with jackpot. Will swap for good bandit or wall machine.
Loads of Mills and Sega spares – phone for details.

George 01530 264772 (Leics.)

For Sale

'Hi-Ball', 1930s floor-standing arcade machine by Exhibit Supply Co. £500 ono

John 01273 620608 (Brighton)

For Sale

Upright Space Invaders machine, by Bally. Phone for more details.

Tabletop Taito Space Invaders, in need of some work. £180

Tabletop Galaxian, in GWO. £275

George 01530 264772 (Leics.)

Wanted

The punch ball only to fit Charles Ahrens punch ball machine. Original or similar.

Jimmy 01782 397372

jimmyffinney@hotmail.com

Wanted

For the newer type Super Challenger, a complete knob mechanism on left of fascia that turns the penny deflector mechanism. Any condition.

Brian 01347 811532 (York)

Wanted

Bollands working model wanted. Will part exchange for Ahrens Fireman Racer, plus cash adjustment. Phone for details.

Les 07905 372227 evenings

Wanted

Bagatelles, unusual or with nice graphics. Also old pre 1930s games, I.E. indoor, pub, board games etc.

Ivan 01273 401144

Wanted

Ruffler and Walker two player games: Grand National and Grand Prix.

Charlie 07711 978806 (Essex)

Bandits for Sale – Breaking Collection

Jennings Deci-bell Indian head console bandit on 1/- play.

Mills Poinsettia bandit, with numbered reels and jackpot, on old penny play.

Jennings Club Chief, with jackpot and escalator on 6d play.

Mills Bell-O-Matic bandit, with jackpot & escalator on 6d play.

Mills Cherry Front bandit, with jackpot and escalator on 6d play.

Aristocrat Starlight bandit on 1p play.

Novamat wall bandit on old penny play.

All machines are with keys and in good working order. Some pictures available. Phone for more details.

Pete 01507 462070 (Lincs.)

For Sale

‘My Wild Life’, by Jimmy Chipperfield, rare book. £10 inc. p&p

‘Remember When’, by Robert Ofie. Rare A4 sized book. £12 inc. p&p

John 01273 620608 (Brighton)

Wanted

Outer ball track and hammer box for a small BMCo allwin. Would consider a complete playfield.

Jerry 07710 285360 (Kent)

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Tony 01622 820263

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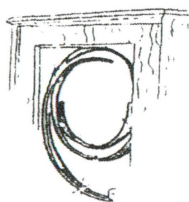
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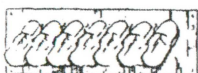
ALLWIN TRACK

Grooved & chromed just like the original.

Inner with flat & nipple
17½" inside length
Middle 18" inside length
Outer 40" inside length

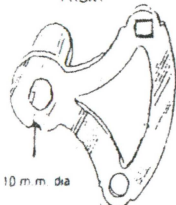


Win Tabs Red printed on Silver foil sticky backed 12 on a sheet



CHROMED 7 ball win gallery. 6 x 1.9/16

CHROMED TRIGGER FRONT

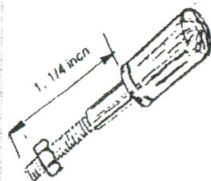


10 m.m. dia

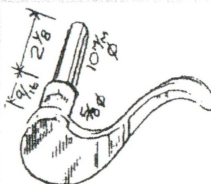
CHROMED PAYOUT BOWL



2.5 inch dia cup 2 x 0.25 inch fixing squares at 3.75 inch centres.

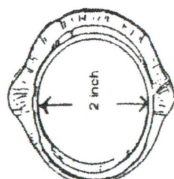


CHROMED THUMB STOP

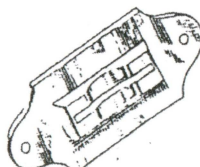


TRIGGER

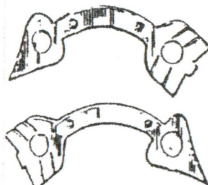
CHROMED KNOB SHIELD



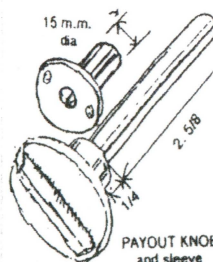
2 x tapped M5 fixing holes on extended nipples 2.1/2 centres.



COIN SLOT to suit 2p but can be filed bigger

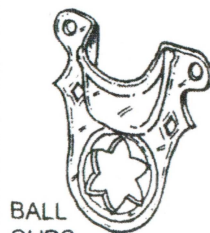
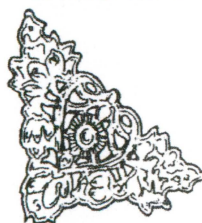


CHROMED ARROWS Reversible.



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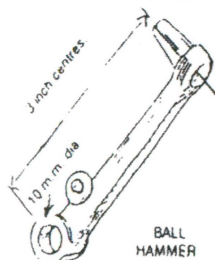
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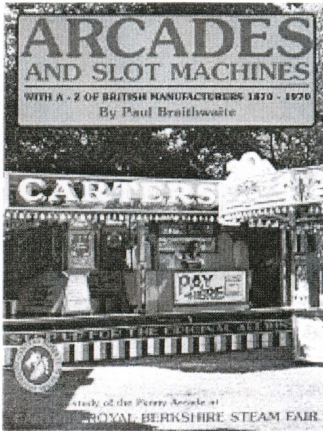
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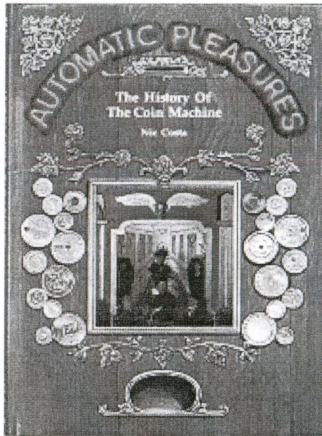
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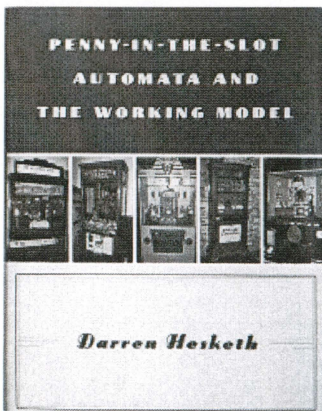
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By Nick Laister

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Soft-back, 122 pages, b/w. **Price: £16**



Penny in the Slot Automata

and the Working Model By Darren Hesketh

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